



Dave Peterson and Keith Bloomer, Locks and Dam 14, lock a tow through the main lock at Locks and Dam 14.

# When Lives Are On The Line

**H**elp! We're headed into the dam! That plea for help instantly changed an otherwise ordinary June workday into a lifesaving event.

On June 11, Keith Bloomer, Darrell Navratil and Dave Peterson, Locks and Dam 14, didn't hesitate a second in saving the lives of four recreational boaters early this summer.

Dave Peterson, shifthead at Locks and Dam 14, recalled the event.

"At approximately 11:30 a.m., shouts for help were heard coming from above the dam," said Peterson. "Keith Bloomer and I were just letting a recreation craft out of the main lock southbound. Keith and I went to the upper end and saw a ski boat with four people in it drifting toward the dam above tainter gates three and four.

"Keith prepared the upper lifeboat for launching while I went to the dam and started gates 3 and 4 down while calling Darrell Navratil from the auxiliary lock to come help.

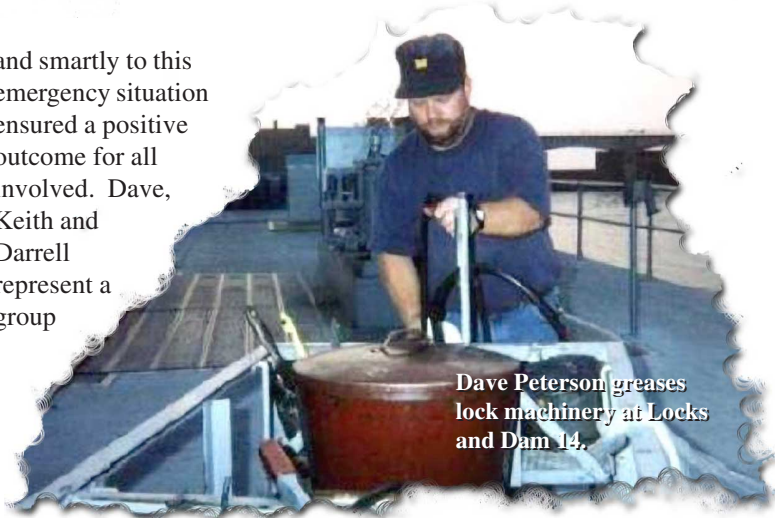
"The individuals in the boat had an anchor in the water and had stopped drifting toward the dam approximately 250 feet above tainter gate three," said Peterson. "Darrell and I pulled alongside in our lifeboat and secured them to us and proceeded back up along the outside wing wall and into the approach for the main lock.

"(Then we) towed their boat to the boat ramp below the auxiliary lock where they were able to secure it and call someone to come get them," said Peterson.

Although the description may sound easy, the lifesaving process took one hour and 20 minutes.

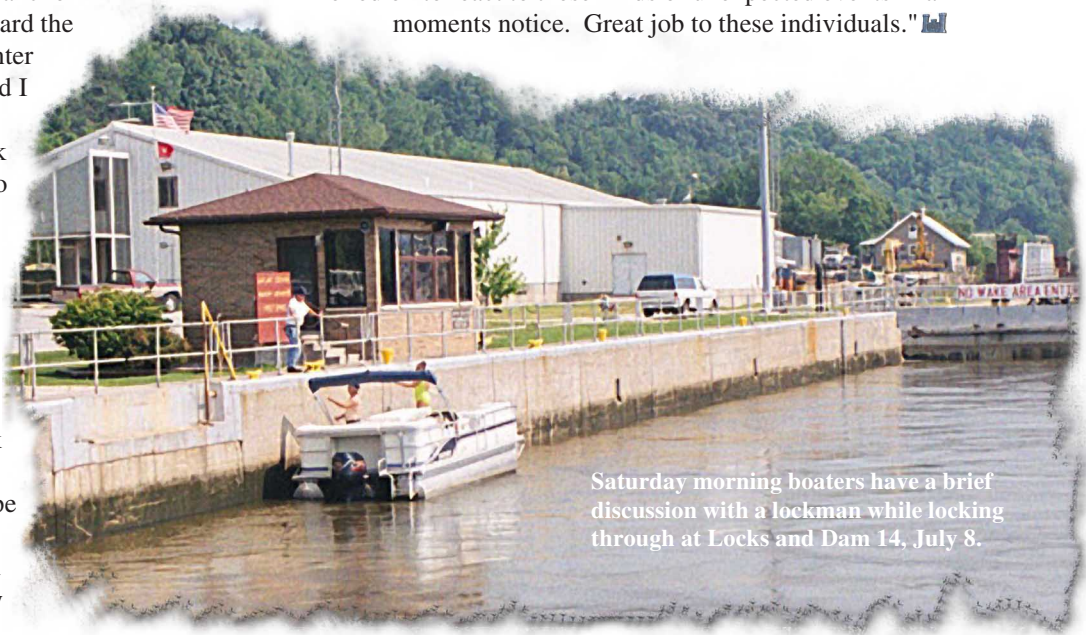
"These individuals consider this type of action 'all in a days work,'" said Roger Harroun, lockmaster, Locks and Dam 14. "Their ability to react swiftly

and smartly to this emergency situation ensured a positive outcome for all involved. Dave, Keith and Darrell represent a group



Dave Peterson greases lock machinery at Locks and Dam 14.

of individuals who man the lock walls in the Rock Island District night and day in all kinds of weather conditions and are relied on to react to these kinds of unexpected events in a moments notice. Great job to these individuals." 🇺🇸



Saturday morning boaters have a brief discussion with a lockman while locking through at Locks and Dam 14, July 8.



# Back in Time

By Kevin Ewbank, Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

Visitors to the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center were treated to a blast from the past. When the grounds of the Center were converted into a French fur trader camp.

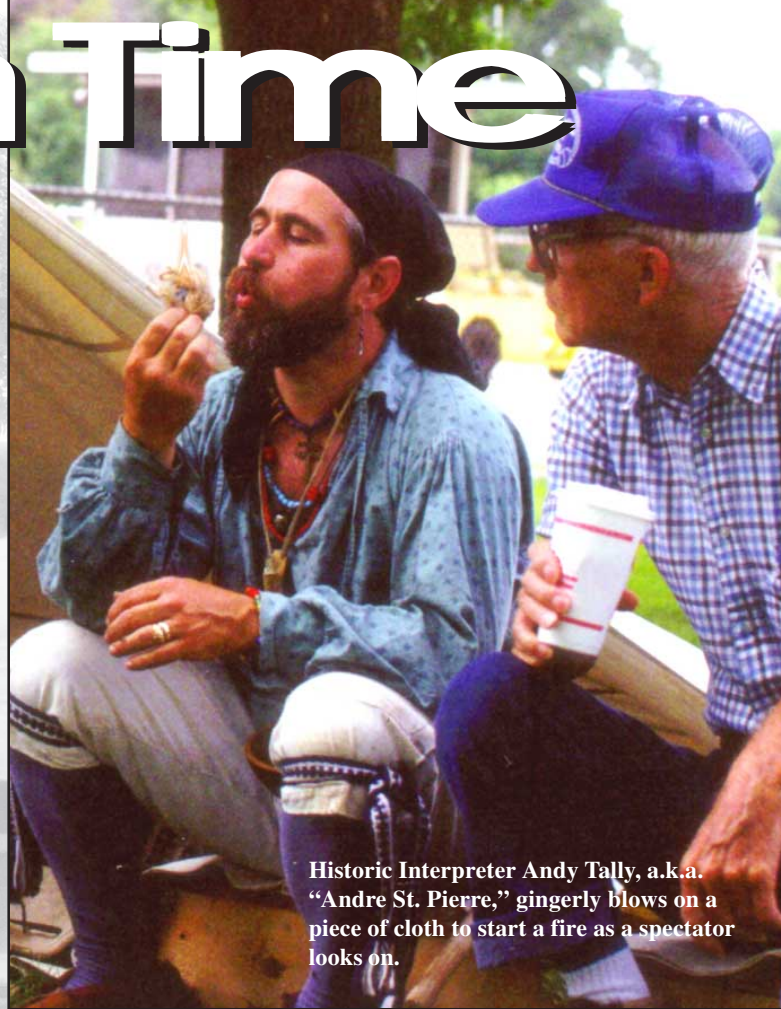
Historic Interpreter Andy Tally paid a visit that weekend to bring to life Andre St. Pierre, a 17th century French voyager. Visitors were treated to a first hand account of life during the times of the fur traders.

Tally played the part of a French voyager perfectly. Dressed in authentic apparel of the times, Andre described in vivid detail what he experienced on a day-to-day basis, trading furs with the Native Americans up and down the Illinois River Valley. Whether playing his flute or starting a fire without matches, visitors clung to Andre's every colorful description.

In addition to Andre's colorful personality, everyone was treated to a display of the tools of the trade of a French voyager. Furs, tools, flutes and packs were all part of the presentation.

Visitors from across the state were able to experience the first-person accounts in the third-annual Waterway Through History weekend. In addition to Andre, the Visitor Center had historic photographs and documents that chronicled the history of the Illinois River, from the days of fur traders, to the important commercial and natural resource it is today.

Most visitors walked away asking the same question, "When will Andre be back next year?" 🏰



Historic Interpreter Andy Tally, a.k.a. "Andre St. Pierre," gingerly blows on a piece of cloth to start a fire as a spectator looks on.

Photo by Mark Klimaszewski, park ranger, IWVC

## Vice President Locks Through District

The morning after the Democratic National Convention, Vice President Al Gore and Senator Joe Lieberman launched a 400-mile riverboat tour along the Mississippi River.

The tour started in La Crosse, Wis., ended in Hannibal, Mo., and locked through Rock Island District locks 11 - 21.

Although the Vice President's schedule didn't allow him to travel through every lock on the tour, he did get the chance to meet some of the lock crew members.

"Once the Vice President and Senator Lieberman finished talking to the crowd they came back to the boarding ramp and shook hands with the entire lock crew and thanked us all," said Larry Reeve, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 20.

"The Secret Service, State Police, Sheriff's Department, EOD (the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team), and local authorities were very impressed with the job the employees of the Corps of Engineers did in preparation," said Reeve.

Vice President Gore and Texas Governor George W. Bush are currently running for President.

Additional information on registering to vote can be found at the Federal Voting Assistance Program, [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov). 🏰



Leonard Ernst, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 12, and John Mueller, assistant lockmaster, Lock and Dam 12, pose for a quick photograph with Vice President Gore. "As is turned out we never had to stop navigation while he was here," said Ernst. "We just slowed down operations until he left."